



**OSAC Meeting**  
Leesburg, VA  
January 29, 2016

**NIST**  
National Institute of  
Standards and Technology  
U.S. Department of Commerce

# A Big Picture View of OSAC and NCFS

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Vice-Chair, National Commission on Forensic Science

Member, OSAC Biology/DNA Scientific Area Committee

**OSAC Liaison to SWGDAM**

Associate Editor, *Forensic Science International: Genetics*

# A Big Picture View of OSAC Efforts

*Provides initial starting material*

*Creates high-quality guidance materials*

*Turns OSAC materials into standards*

SWG documents  
ASTM standards

OSAC Catalog  
(719 documents initially compiled)



Standards Developing Organization

SDO

**OSAC Registry of Approved Standards**

**NCFS**

(National Commission on Forensic Science)

**OVERALL GOAL of OSAC REGISTRY:**  
**Provide trusted discipline-specific standards**  
**(and guidelines) that accrediting bodies can use to audit accredited laboratories**

Universal Accreditation Recommendation to DOJ

DOJ Requires Accreditation

**Accrediting Bodies audit Forensic Laboratories**  
**(providing “teeth” to standards)**

# Work Products Adopted by the Commission

1. Survey of Law Enforcement Forensic Units
2. Accreditation of Medical Examiner and Coroner Offices
3. Certification of Medicolegal Death Investigators
4. Scientific Literature in Support of Forensic Science and Practice
5. Inconsistent Terminology
- 6. Universal Accreditation**
7. Forensic Science and Related Terms
8. Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) Interoperability
9. Root Cause Analysis (RCA) in Forensic Science
10. Pretrial Discovery of Forensic Materials
11. Increasing the Number, Retention, and Quality of Board-Certified Forensic Pathologists
12. Electronic Networking of Medical Examiner and Coroner Offices
13. Documentation, Case Record and Report Contents
14. Ensuring that Forensic Analysis is Based Upon Task-Relevant Information
15. Forensic Science Curriculum Development

# DOJ Press Release (December 7, 2015)

## JUSTICE NEWS

Department of Justice

Office of Public Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, December 7, 2015

### **Justice Department Announces New Accreditation Policies to Advance Forensic Science**

Deputy Attorney General Sally Quillian Yates announced today that the Justice Department will, within the next five years, require department-run forensic labs to obtain and maintain accreditation and require all department prosecutors to use accredited labs to process forensic evidence when practicable. Additionally, the department has decided to use its grant funding mechanisms to encourage other labs around the country to pursue accreditation.

The new policies arose out of recommendations made by the National Commission of Forensic Science (NCFS), which was established to advance the field of forensic science and make suggestions to the Attorney General on how to ensure that reliable and scientifically valid evidence is used when solving crimes. The Attorney General made the decision to implement several of the commission's recommendations last week and the Deputy Attorney General, who serves as co-chair of the NCFS, announced their adoption at a meeting of the commission today.

<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-new-accreditation-policies-advance-forensic-science>



Office of the Attorney General  
Washington, D. C. 20530

November 23, 2015

**DEPARTMENT**

**MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF ~~DEPARTMENT~~ COMPONENTS**

FROM:

Loretta E. Lynch  
Attorney General

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Loretta E. Lynch".

SUBJECT:

Recommendations of the National Commission on Forensic Science  
Announcement for NCFS Meeting Eight

Our justice system depends on reliable, scientifically valid evidence. For the past two years, the National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS) has developed recommendations for how the Department of Justice can strengthen the field of forensic science. The Department is reviewing those recommendations on a rolling basis, and will continue to evaluate proposals as they are approved by the NCFS.

<http://www.justice.gov/opa/file/797541/download>

# **NCFS Work Products – Drafts were open for public comment (Nov 23 – Dec 22, 2015)**

**Will be voted on at the March 21-22, 2016 NCFS meeting**

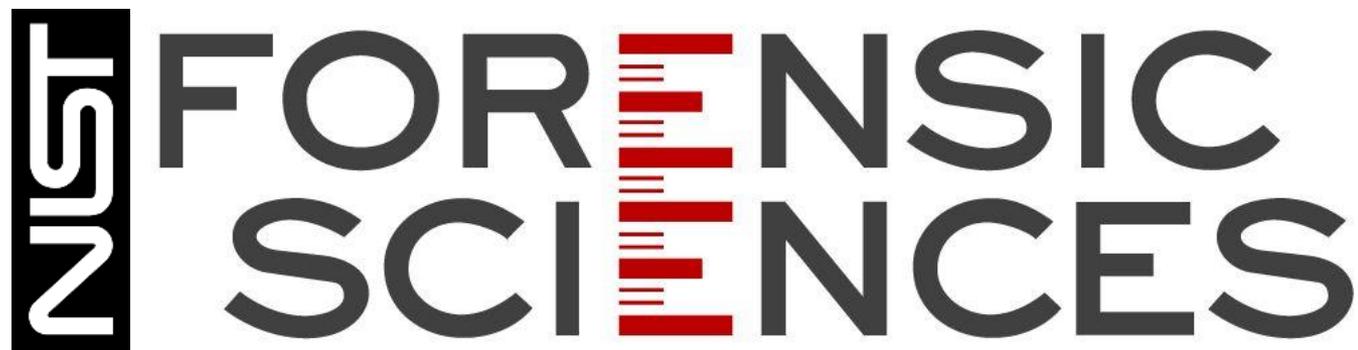
1. Proficiency Testing in Forensic Science
2. Critical Steps to Accreditation
3. National Code of Professional Responsibility
4. Transparency of Quality Management System Documents
- 5. Testimony Using the Term “Reasonable Degree of Scientific Certainty”**
6. Funding for Post-Doctoral Projects to Facilitate Translation of Research into Forensic Science Practice
7. Establishing the Foundational Literature within the Forensic Science Disciplines

# NCFS Work Products/Topics Under Development

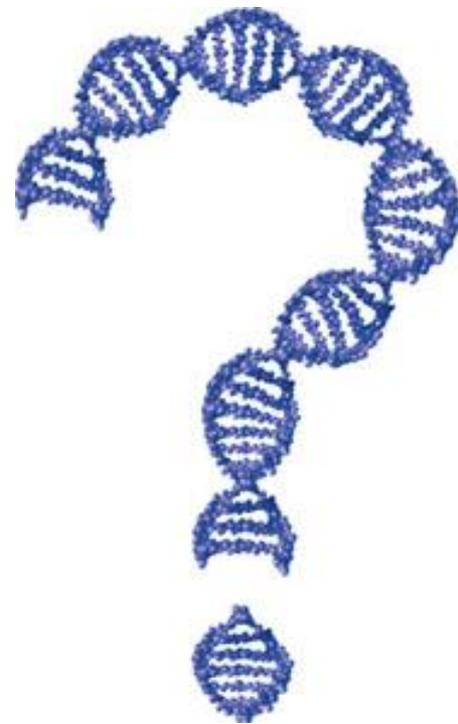
1. Accessibility of Scientific Literature
2. Evaluating the Effectiveness of Scientific Procedures and Practices
- 3. Validation of Test Methods**
4. Role of Accreditation in Forensic Education
5. Training Assessment Tools
6. Training on Notification
7. Assessment of Context Management Systems
8. Checklists to Reduce Bias
9. National Call Center
10. Model Legislation for Medical Examiner and Coroner Jurisdictions
11. Medicolegal Autonomy and Independence
12. Uniform Policies and Procedures for Accreditation Programs
13. Analyst Certification
- 14. Need for Research to Improve Quality of Proficiency Tests**
- 15. Data Collection and Collaboration with Proficiency Test Providers**
16. Accreditation and Digital Evidence
17. Presentation of Expert Testimony
18. Access to Expert Witnesses by Defense
19. Judicial Vouching
20. Notice and Demand Rules
- 21. Probabilistic Statements**
22. Pretrial Discovery
23. Report Content – Case File
24. Evidence Preservation and Retention

**National Commission on Forensic Science (NCFS):**  
[www.justice.gov/ncfs](http://www.justice.gov/ncfs)

**Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC):**  
[www.nist.gov/forensics/osac/index.cfm](http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac/index.cfm)



[www.nist.gov/forensics](http://www.nist.gov/forensics)



301-975-4049

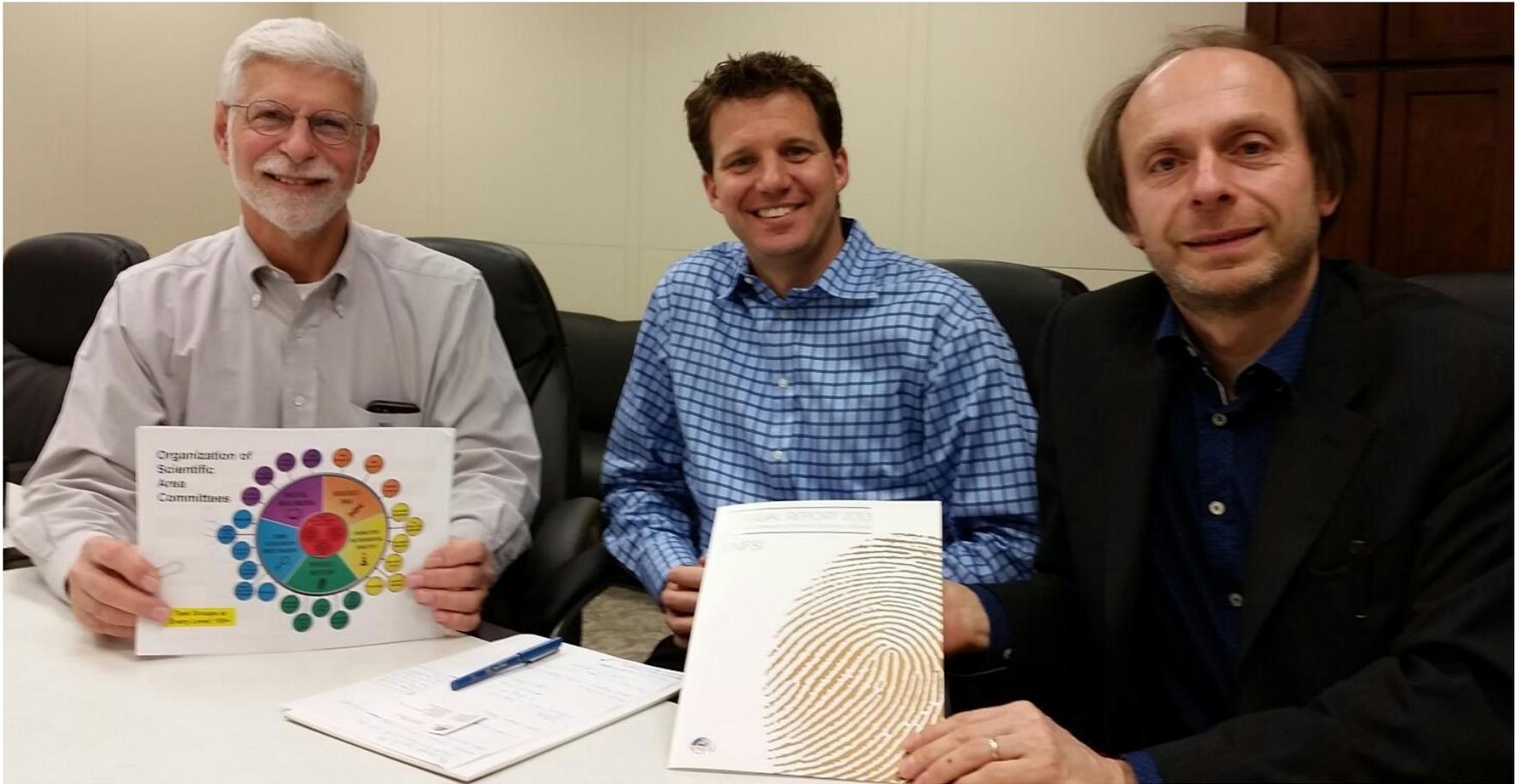
[john.butler@nist.gov](mailto:john.butler@nist.gov)

# OSAC and ENFSI Connect

**Mark Stolorow (NIST)**  
Director of OSAC Affairs

**John Paul Jones (NIST)**  
Deputy Director of OSAC Affairs

**Jan de Kinder (Belgium)**  
ENFSI Chairman Designate



Dr. Jan de Kinder from the National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology (Brussels, Belgium) visited NIST on March 18, 2015. He met with NIST OSAC leadership and discussed the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) and how the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) might interface with OSAC efforts. ENFSI has 64 member institutes, 2 standing committees, 17 working groups, and a 20 year history.



<http://www.nist.gov/forensics/osac/>

**Governing Board has 17 members**

**[Forensic Science Standards Board \(FSSB\)](#)**

**3 [Resource Committees](#)**

[Human Factors Committee](#) (HFC)

[Legal Resource Committee](#) (LRC)

[Quality Infrastructure Committee](#) (QIC)

**[Committees](#) (5) and [Subcommittees](#) (24)**

[Crime Scene/Death Investigation](#)

- [Anthropology](#)
- [Disaster Victim Identification](#)
- [Dogs and Sensors](#)
- [Fire Scene and Explosives](#)
- [Medical/Legal Death Investigation](#)
- [Odontology](#)

[Chemistry/Instrumental Analysis](#)

- [Controlled Substances](#)
- [Fire Debris and Explosives](#)
- [Geological Materials](#)
- [Gunshot Residue](#)
- [Materials \(Trace\)](#)
- [Toxicology](#)

[Digital/Multimedia](#)

- [Digital Evidence](#)
- [Facial Identification](#)
- [Imaging Technologies](#)
- [Speaker Recognition](#)

[Biology/DNA](#)

- [DNA Analysis 1](#)
- [DNA Analysis 2](#)
- [Wildlife Forensics](#)

[Physics/Pattern](#)

- [Bloodstain Pattern Analysis](#)
- [Friction Ridge](#)
- [Firearms/Toolmarks](#)
- [Footwear and Tire Tread](#)
- [Questioned Documents](#)



<http://www.enfsi.eu/>

**[Governing Board](#)** has 5 members

**2 Standing Committees**

[Quality & Competence Committee \(QCC\)](#)

[Research & Development Committee \(R&D\)](#)

**17 Expert Working Groups**

[Animal, Plant and Soil Traces](#)

[Digital Imaging](#)

[DNA](#)

[Documents](#)

[Drugs](#)

[Explosives](#)

[Fingerprint](#)

[Firearms/GSR](#)

[Fire and Explosions Investigation](#)

[Forensic Information Technology](#)

[Forensic Speech and Audio Analysis](#)

[Handwriting](#)

[Marks](#)

[Paint & Glass](#)

[Road Accident Analysis](#)

[Scene of Crime](#)

[Textile and Hair](#)

# OSAC Interfaces with NIFS-Australia

**Mark Stolorow**  
(Director of OSAC Affairs)

**John Paul Jones**  
(Associate Director of OSAC Affairs)

**Linzi Wilson-Wilde**  
(NIFS-Australia)

**Karen Reczek**  
(OSAC Quality Infrastructure Committee Chair)

On April 22, 2015, Dr. Linzi Wilson-Wilde from the National Institute of Forensic Science in Melbourne, Australia visited NIST to meet with members of the OSAC planning team to discuss standards development in forensic science.